

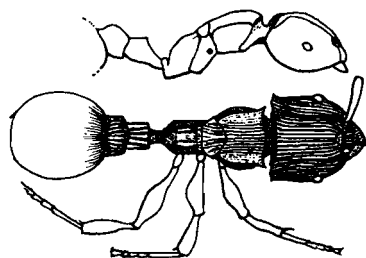
The Genus *Terataner* Emery (Formicidae)

by

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This genus was erected by Emery (1912) to include seven species, of which six had been originally described as belonging to the genus *Atopomyrmex* E.Andre. In the same paper he erected another genus, *Atopula* (p. 104) to include three species, the genotype *A. nodifera* Em. originally placed in *Atopomyrmex*, and *A. belti* Forel and *A. ceylonica* Emery. Forel (1917) erected a new genus *Bruncella* for *belti*, and placed *A. ceylonica* in the genus *Leptothorax*.

Recently I received two specimens of an ant from Dr. J. C. Faure, collected at Marieps, E. Transvaal, which appeared to have some of the characters of both *Terataner* and *Atopula*, and therefore led me to examine more closely the characters of those genera as set forth by Emery in the *Genera Insectorum* (1922). The conclusion arrived at is that *Terataner bottegoi* Em. and the new species *transvaalensis* described below should be placed in a new subgenus *Tranetera*, retaining in *Terataner* s.str. only the following species, *forcli* Em., *alluaudi* Em., *luteus* Em., *steinheili* Forel, *scotti* Forel and *rufipes* Em. Furthermore, *Atopula*, with genotype *nodifera* Em. should be reduced to a subgenus of *Terataner*. The artificial nature of that genus was recognized by Emery, since in his diagnosis (1922) he says "Le genre *Atopula* est un groupe dont les caractères sont en grande partie négatifs, c'est-à-dire indifferents. . . . Peut-être *Atopula* est-il un groupe hétérogène, un résidu de classification." The characters of the genus and of the subgenera may be distinguished as follows:—



♀ *Terataner (Tranetera) transvaalensis* x 10

Genus **Terataner** Em.

Occipital angles of the head dentiform; the frontal carinae, except in *T. luteus* Em. join at about the posterior fifth of the head an oblique crest which extends to the posterior angles of the head. Pro-mesonotal suture obsolete, or (*alluaudi*) slightly indicated at the sides. Anterior angles of the pronotum acute and dentiform. Meso-epinotal suture deeply depressed. Petiole not quadrate, armed on the dorsal surface with two long spines, the post-petiole without teeth or spines, except in *alluaudi*, in which there is a single dorsal spine. Femora swollen. Genotype *T. forcli* Em.

Tranetera (anagram of *Terataner*) subgen. nov.

Occipital angles of the head, the frontal carinae and the pronotum as in *Terataner*. Pro-mesonotal suture clearly defined, the meso-epinotal suture not depressed. Petiole quadrate, without spines. Post-petiole also without spines, and wider than the petiole. Femora swollen. Subgenotype *T. bottegoid* Em.

Atopula Em. subgenus.

Occipital angles of the head rounded. The frontal carinae and a little before the middle of the length of the head and the oblique crests are absent. Pro-mesonotal suture obsolete. Anterior angles or shoulders of the pronotum round. Meso-epinotal suture shallow. Petiole and post-petiole without spines or teeth. Femora only slightly swollen. Subgenotype *A. nodifera* Em.

The oblique crest which is continued from the posterior end of the frontal carinae, absent in *T. luteus*, is not an unbroken line. It is formed by each of the longitudinal rugae, with which the head is sculptured, being raised higher at that point, whence they continue at a lower level to the hind margin of the head. In the species belonging to *Terataner* s.str. and *Tranetera* the lateral margins of the mesonotum are angular or subdentate at about the middle.

Terataner (Tranetera) transvaalensis sp. nov.

♂ 6 mm. long. Black. The scapes, thorax and the legs more or less fusco-ferruginous, the underside of the femora and tibiae paler. Petiole, post-petiole, abdomen and legs with a few short, erect and whitish hairs. Upper surface of the head closely, evenly and longitudinally rugose, the rugae thinner at the sides than between the frontal carinae; the underside of the head less coarsely rugose than on the upperside. Mandibles striato-punctate. Median area of the clypeus carinate on each side, and with four strong rugae in between, the anterior margin feebly concave. Frontal carinae moderately divergent caudad, bent outwards at about their posterior fourth and extending to the lateral margins a little in front of the posterior angles. The spaces between the rugae are dull. Pronotum microscopically reticulate and dull, the inner three-fifths of the dorsum longitudinally rugose but less strongly than

on the head; the sides of the pronotum are flat, longitudinally rugose, the rugae fading caudad. Mesopleura and sides of the epinotum with a few large longitudinal rugae. Mesonotum and epinotum dull, the former longitudinally rugose, less strongly than the pronotum. Epinotal dorsum with two rugae, the sides slightly elevated, the declivity transversely rugose. Node of the petiole with four very thick longitudinal carinae, the post-petiole with an equally coarse rugosity. Abdomen dull, very finely reticulate, the basal fourth closely rugoso-striate lengthwise.

Head widest in the middle, excluding the mandibles, one-ninth longer than wide behind, the sides moderately convex. Pronotal dorsum one-fifth wider in front than long, the anterior and lateral margins feebly convex, the latter sharply carinate, the humeral angles acute and dentiform. Promesonotal suture well-defined. Mesonotum twice as wide as long, its lateral margins bluntly angular in the middle. Meso-epinotal suture shallow. Dorsum of the epinotum edentate, narrowed caudad, the declivity with an auriculate lamella on each side at the bottom. Petiole with a short peduncle, the upper face of the node almost square, without teeth or spines, the post-petiole subquadrangular, wider than the petiole, wider than long and without teeth or spines. Second to sixth joints of the flagellum wider than long, the other joints longer than wide. Anterior femora slightly, the middle and hind femora strongly swollen in the middle; the middle and hind tibiae slightly swollen, and with one calcar. Mandibles arcuate, with five teeth.

Marieps (or Mariepskop) Eastern Transvaal, May, 1951. 2 ♀♀ (J. C. Faure) beaten out of bushes while searching for thrips. Holotype in the National Museum, Southern Rhodesia.

In the paratype the sides of the pronotal dorsum and of the post-petiole are less convex than in the holotype. The species is closely related to *T. bottegoi* Em. from which it differs by the colour of the thorax and legs, by the absence of little tubercles at the point where the frontal carinae are bent outwards towards the posterior angles of the head, and by having no trace of a punctured and indistinct scrobe.

REFERENCES

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